

National Police force has been very cooperative and helpful in our international law enforcement efforts. I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank Assistant Chief of Police Panikos Hadjiloizou. Chief Hadjiloizou has been noted as being one of the driving forces in the cooperative international law enforcement effort being conducted within Cyprus. Chief Hadjiloizou has worked in close coordination with the U.S. Secret Service, the Drug Enforcement Agency, and other U.S. law enforcement agencies in efforts to stem these organized criminal organizations. I wanted to take this opportunity to thank Chief Hadjiloizou and hope that this cooperative effort continues its successful campaign. I also want to thank Chief Hadjiloizou and the men under his command for their extraordinary efforts to locate and recover the remains of the Blackhawk crew in order to return them to their families. I am sure that I am speaking on behalf of all my colleagues when I thank him for all his efforts.

We all are aware that international criminal activity is expanding and the only way to counteract this growth is through cooperative, task force involvement between the United States and its international neighbors.●

JUDITH COLT JOHNSON

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to a distinguished Marylander, committed environmentalist, and model citizen—Judith Colt Johnson. Judy recently stepped aside from a long and distinguished career as president of the Committee to Preserve Assateague Island. I want to extend my personal congratulations and thanks for her many years of hard work and dedication to the environment and the stewardship of Assateague Island's ecosystem.

Judy Johnson founded the Committee to Preserve Assateague Island in 1970, the year I was first elected to the U.S. Congress, and served as its president for the past 25 years. Over the years, Judy worked tirelessly to preserve the natural beauty and unspoiled character of Assateague Island. Her accomplishments are many and remarkable. Among other things she: Led the successful campaign to amend the organic act for the National Seashore to remove provisions calling for construction of a road the length of the island and 600 acres of development; developed a grass-roots membership of over 1,300 people representing 38 states; blocked construction of a sewage outfall pipe across the island; sponsored an annual beach cleanup marshalling larger volunteer efforts each year; and convened the first-ever conference on the condition of Maryland's coastal bays which initiated the current efforts to protect these sensitive waters;

Judy not only organized and led these efforts, but gave selflessly of her

time and energy to make Assateague a better place for all of us. She has done this through activities such as cleaning trash from the beach and helping plant stems of beach grasses and seedlings to protect valuable wildlife habitat. She also contributed substantially to the development of the master plan for Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge—now considered a model for other wildlife refuges in coastal areas—and actively participated in hundreds of public meetings, hearings and workshops on issues affecting Assateague and the surrounding areas. Her monthly newsletters have provided invaluable information on potential threats to the natural habitat and ecology of this fragile barrier island as well as the many noteworthy events and special values of this area. I have had the privilege of working closely with Judy and her organization on a number of issues affecting Assateague Island and can attest that Assateague Island would not look as it does today had it not been for all the hard work of Judy Johnson over the years. Judy's indefatigable energy, spirit and determination are renowned.

Mrs. Johnson's activities and interests were not limited to her involvement with the Committee to Preserve Assateague Island. She also served on numerous national and State conservation organizations including the Maryland Wetlands Committee, the Maryland and Virginia Conservation Councils, the board of the Coast Alliance, the advisory council to the National Parks and Conservation Association and the Garden Club of America. In recognition of her outstanding service and dedication, Judy has received numerous awards and commendations including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Commander's Award for Public Service, the Izaak Walton League of America Honor Roll Award, the Take Pride in America Award given by the U.S. Department of the Interior, and the National Parks and Conservation Association's Conservationist of the Year Award.

The efforts of Judy Johnson over the past 25 years have earned her the respect and admiration of everyone with whom she has worked and the visitors to Assateague Island will benefit from her labors for years to come. I join with her many friends in extending my best wishes and thanks for her leadership and commitment.●

THE AMERICAN PROMISE

● Mr. ROBB. Mr. President, I rise today to speak briefly about an important new PBS series entitled "The American Promise", which will premiere on October 1, 2, and 3. "The American Promise" celebrates community based democracy—the individual works of countless citizens throughout America who work every day to make their communities stronger and more vital.

There is no question that our actions in this Capitol represent democracy's most visible work. It is the facet of democracy most studied in classrooms and most reported nationally by the media.

But our legislative world, Mr. President, has increasingly, in my judgment, become a world of partisanship and competition. The focus too often turns to who wins and who loses rather than how we can work together to reach a positive goal. I believe this partisanship is making many of our citizens more frustrated and cynical.

So we can not forget that our work in Washington is but one form of American democracy—and that American democracy is larger and more diverse than the business conducted here in this Capitol.

In communities throughout our Nation, in ways both large and small, citizens decide every day to become a valuable part of the democratic process. They do this by joining an organization; by bringing others together to improve or expand an existing service; by asking how a practice that does not work can be changed; by engaging in a civil and respectful debate; by considering another viewpoint; or by taking responsibility to make a hard decision which will make a community better.

When this happens, Mr. President, everybody in the community wins. When a community development bank is opened where none existed before, when individuals cooperate so that dry land can be irrigated, score keeping becomes irrelevant. Through action and energy, participation and deliberation, taking responsibility and seeking common ground, American democracy comes to life.

"The American Promise", a new PBS television series, reminds us of the community-based democracy that is alive and well beyond this Capitol. And in doing so, it both strengthens our faith in our democracy and teaches our citizens how they can personally be a part of the democratic process in their own communities. And because "The American Promise" will be made available to high school and junior high school classes through the United States, young Americans will be able to have it as they study civics and government.

In roughly fifty story segments taken from every region of the county, lessons are offered on the skills and values needed to bring our democracy to life. These vignettes illustrate core American values such as freedom, responsibility, opportunity, participation, and deliberation.

Each 3 hour segment contains select historical reenactments, which serve to establish important contexts through which the remaining vignettes take on new meaning. The first of these reenactments, which appears the beginning of the documentary, is set in 1769, in the streets of Williamsburg, VA. We watch as a young Thomas Jefferson, along with Patrick Henry, Colonel

George Washington, Peyton Randolph, George Mason, Richard Henry Lee, and others, take the first steps toward freedom. In the House of Burgesses, on the streets of Colonial Williamsburg, in a local tavern, the group draws up Virginia's plans to boycott English goods.

We hear Washington's words, "How far their attention to our rights and privileges is to be awakened or alarmed by starving their trade and manufacturers remains to be tried." The viewers of "The American Promise" see our Founding Fathers starting a rebellion that will gather strength for 7 more years before the Declaration of Independence is written.

Although we sometimes think of our freedoms as a Nation being won at Concord, Bunker Hill or Yorktown, these freedoms were also the result of years of meetings and debate and consensus building. This serves as a true reminder of the communal instincts that helped create our great Nation.

Mr. President, I urge my colleagues and viewers across the Nation to watch this important program. "The American Promise" reminds us what is right about America—and challenges us all to be good citizens always working to make our Nation stronger and greater. ●

●Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, would the Senator from Missouri, the chairman of the VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies Subcommittee, yield a few moments for me to address an issue of great importance to the people of Hawaii and the Pacific?

Mr. BOND. I would be happy to yield to the junior Senator from Hawaii.

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I am concerned that the disaster needs of the Pacific are not being adequately addressed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency [FEMA]. In particular, I am concerned that FEMA lacks adequate staffing for its Pacific Area Office, located in Honolulu, to address fully this mitigation, training, and emergency response needs of this large and diverse area.

As the Senator from Missouri knows, FEMA's Region IX, based in San Francisco, is currently responsible for administering emergency management assistance programs and responding to disasters throughout the Pacific—including American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated State of Micronesia, the Republic of Palau, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands—as well as in California, Arizona, and Nevada. It is by far the largest of FEMA's regions, covering an area greater in size than the U.S. mainland. But the current grouping of Hawaii and the Pacific Islands within Region IX results in the Pacific islands receiving less than adequate attention.

The Pacific insular states are seven different jurisdictions that are culturally, economically, and politically distinct from mainland states. The estimated 110 FEMA employees who staff the San Francisco office are too re-

mote, both geographically and culturally, to provide the full range of disaster-related assistance to the unique Pacific insular states. Quite understandably, they are preoccupied by the vast emergency needs of the populations who live closer at hand, in California, Nevada, and Arizona.

The Republic of Palau, for example, is 5,500 miles from San Francisco—a 2-day journey from the continental U.S. by jet. Moreover, when FEMA officials finally arrive at the scene of a disaster that has occurred in the Pacific, they must contend with major differences in language, facilities, food, climate, and communications not to mention the idiosyncrasies of local political systems and administrative practices.

The establishment of the Pacific Area Office in Honolulu 2 years ago vastly improved FEMA's ability to respond quickly to disasters in the central and South Pacific, if only because the facility is located thousands of miles closer to potential disaster sites. And, while the office has made a serious effort to maintain ongoing contact with the more remote insular jurisdictions, it is seriously limited in its ability to provide critical training, technical assistance, and hazard mitigation services that could significantly minimize loss of life and property.

So, given the foregoing, I might ask the Senator from Missouri if he would consider the Pacific's emergency needs when the pending measure goes to conference.

Mr. BOND. What is the Senator from Hawaii's specific request?

Mr. AKAKA. After extensive consultation with emergency management officials and representatives of the Pacific insular states, I have determined that the service limitations I have described can only be overcome by augmenting the Pacific Area Office with a minimum of twelve (12) additional permanent staff. Of these, six, (6) are needed in the Pacific Area Office itself to support preparedness training, planning, mitigation, and logistical functions, and six (6) others are required as permanent liaison officers assigned to, and physically based in, each of FEMA's insular Pacific jurisdictions.

Mr. BOND. So the Senator from Hawaii requests assistance in securing conference report language directing FEMA to assign 12 FTEE to the Pacific Area Office?

Mr. AKAKA. That is my request. The vital assistance provided by such staff could save millions of dollars in property and economic activity, not to mention human lives. I would underscore the fact that I am not proposing the establishment of a new regional office, only that the existing satellite office in Hawaii be provided with the resources to meet the full range of our emergency management obligations in the Pacific.

Ms. MIKULSKI. If I may interject. My colleagues may recall that as chairman of the VA, HUD, and Inde-

pendent Agencies Subcommittee in the 102d Congress, I supported the original establishment of the Pacific Area Office. At that time, the subcommittee set aside \$500,000 in the Senate report accompanying the FY92 VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies Appropriations bill for this initiative.

The subcommittee's action reflected a concern that a permanent FEMA presence was needed in the Pacific. Until the office was opened in Honolulu in 1993, the agency had no forward-based staff or facilities in these jurisdictions; instead, all disaster activities were conducted directly from FEMA's Region IX office, located in San Francisco, thousands of miles from these jurisdictions.

While the creation of this office has clearly improved FEMA's ability to deal with the many disasters that occur in the Pacific, the agency still falls short of fully providing for the emergency needs of our citizens and friends in the Pacific. I think we need to consider seriously making the Pacific Area Office a full-service office, one that can provide robust mitigation, training, and emergency response services in a timely, appropriate fashion.

So, I would support the Senator from Hawaii's request that we consider taking this matter up in conference.

Mr. AKAKA. The Senator from Maryland has ably summarized the essence of this issue. I appreciate her comments as well as her key role in originally establishing the Pacific Area Office.

Mr. BOND. I also appreciate my colleague from Maryland's helpful comments on this issue. Given her support, and in view of the unique circumstances that exist in the Pacific, I would be pleased to consider seriously the Senator from Hawaii's request to raise this issue in conference. The Senator from Hawaii should, however, bear in mind that any efforts we make, if any, must be made in the context of FEMA's overall budget.

Mr. AKAKA. I thank the managers of the bill for their thoughtful consideration of this matter. Any accommodation that can be achieved in conference regarding the emergency management needs of the Pacific would be very much appreciated. I yield the floor. ●

RECOGNITION OF BERNARD L. BARELA

● Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I rise today in recognition of the retirement of Bernard L. Barela, District Director for the Albuquerque District after 34 years with the Internal Revenue Service.

Mr. Barela is a native of New Mexico whose family has been here for over 200 years. His mother, sister, and numerous family members still reside in the New Mexico area.

Mr. Barela served in the U.S. Navy from 1957 to 1959. Upon receiving an honorable discharge he returned to Albuquerque where he was a civilian employee.